IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO SUFFERS FROM

ADDICTION



Many people do not realize that addiction is a disease.

Like heart disease, which disrupts the normal function of the heart, addiction affects how the brain works. Addiction changes the brain chemistry to create a compulsion, or craving, to use alcohol, nicotine or other drugs. Like heart disease and other diseases of the body, addiction is treatable. Treatment options may include prescription medicines. Anti-craving drugs, such as those described in this brochure, can boost the chances of successful recovery from the disease of addiction.

Additional information available:

http://www.dpt.samhsa.gov

http://csat.samhsa.gov/publications/MedicalCommunity.aspx

 $\underline{\text{http://www.dmh.mo.gov/ada/MedicationAssistedTreatment.htm}}$

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov

http://www.vivitrol.com

http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/basas/buprenorphine-fact

http://www.arcamidwest.com





Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division

The information contained in this brochure is not intended to offer medical advice and is not a substitute for medical advice. If you think you or a loved one could benefit from these medications, please talk to your doctor. He or she can explain more fully how the drugs work, for whom they are appropriate and any side effects. Medicaid and your health insurance may pay some or all of the costs of these medicines. Please consult with your doctor.

LEARN HOW PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS CAN HELP!

Medication—Assisted Treatment For Substance Use and Abuse Disorders

Ask your medical provider whether these medications are right for you!

Many people believe that addiction is a moral defect. That's simply not true. Addiction is a disease that impacts the brain and creates a craving for drugs or alcohol. The craving, or compulsion, to use these substances makes it very hard for those who want to quit.

Today, there are new medicines that can reduce or eliminate the cravings. If you or a loved one suffers from addiction to alcohol, tobacco or

other drugs, talk to your doctor about prescription medicines that may be helpful.

Anti-craving medications can be an essential tool for people struggling with addiction.

No one is saying recovering from addiction is easy. But because these medicines can reduce or eliminate cravings, patients can focus more on their treatment and recovery. The threat of relapse can also be reduced. Other medicines may lessen the symptoms of withdrawal. Some may help deal with co-occurring problems such as depression or other mental disorders.

Consumers need to know that prescription medicine can help. Asking medical professionals the right questions can help you find out whether any of these medications can help recovery.



Alcohol Dependence:

There are several current FDA-approved medications for the treatment of alcohol dependence to reduce cravings and to promote abstinence. All approved drugs have been shown to be effective in the treatment of alcohol dependence.

Medications include Oral Naltrexone (Trade name ReVia); Extended-Release Injectable Naltrexone (Trade name Vivitrol); Acamprosate (Trade name Campral); Disulfiram (Trade name Antabuse)

These medications should be particularly considered for patients who have stopped drinking but continue to have cravings or slips. Patients who have previously failed to respond to other treatment approaches alone are strong candidates for these medications.

Nicotine Addiction:

There are five nicotine replacement therapy formulations the FDA has approved for use including the patch, gum, lozenge, nasal spray, and vapor inhaler. Using these aids can double the chance of successful quitting.

Non-nicotine agent drugs include Bupropion (Trade name Zyban and Welbutrin) and Varenicline (Trade name Chantix). It has been shown that quit rates are higher when a greater number of medications are used for a longer duration of treatment.

Adding a form of counseling (http://wy.quitnet.com or 1-800-QUIT-NOW) to any of these medications will again double the chance of successful quitting.

Methamphetamine/Cocaine/Marijuana:

Unfortunately, there are no current FDA-approved medications for these drugs but there is active research on several promising medications.

Opiates (Narcotics):

Narcotic withdrawal can be treated with Methadone, Clonidine, or Buprenorphine. Narcotic dependence and relapse can be treated with Methadone and Suboxone.

Opioid Addiction

Buprenorphine's trade names are Suboxone® and Subutex®. Compared with methadone, Buprenorphine has a lower risk for abuse and dependence, fewer side effects, and is much safer.